/410 cont./

321 Among other materials used for handicrafts bone and ivory must also be mentioned. Knives (see the chapter, "House Furnishings, Household and Kitchen Utensils," Fig. 165) and knife handles, are made out of them, and they are also used in crossbows. The chopsticks of the well-to-do are usually made of ivory.

[412] [556]

289 Finally, the making of paper is still to be mentioned. Young green bamboo is chopped up, after the outer covering and the pith are removed, into pieces about 15 centimeters long and five centimeters wide. A quantity of wood ashes equal to a fifth of the amount of bamboo /Fig. 373 appears here/ is added and, with the addition of water, is cooked for about twelve hours, during which the water that evaporates is replaced as needed. At the end of this period the bamboo mixture is soft. Then the substance is pounded in order to crush the wood fibers (Ill. 84).[1] At the same time any large or hard particles of wood remaining are carefully removed, and the mass of fibers is further cooked in the same lye solution after liana bark pulverized between stones /411/ has been added. After the substance has reached the proper consistency, it is spread as evenly as possible (Ill. 85)[1] on cotton cloth, which is stretched between wooden frames (Fig. 373), and dried in the sun. With a special bone knife (see the chapter, "House Furnishings, Household and Kitchen Utensils," Fig. 165) the dried and therefore finished paper is carefully lifted off. As was described, it is punched by means of special punches before its use in sacral performances (see the chapter, "Religion and Magic").

[413]

[531]

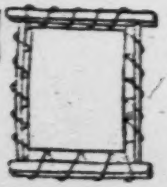

Fig. 373
Wooden Frame for Paper-making among the Meau.
1/60 nat. size.

[1] [see cat. 116, p598 - ANALYST]